

## BPAC MEETING MINUTES

**GROUP NAME:** Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** 11/3/03      **TEAM LEADER:** Caryn Giarratano      **PHONE NUMBER:** 573-522-9297

**LOCATION OF MEETING:** Truman Building, Room 400

<b><u>ATTENDEES:</u></b>	Caryn Giarratano	Aaron Bartlett	Bob Kirkman	Jennifer Crites	Vicky Williams
	Terry Whaley	Jessica Terrell	Gay Pate	Bob Foster	Dale Brigham
	Steve Sleet	Teana Choate	Dave Hurt	Mike Right	Dawne Gardner
	Willard Worts	Mitch Skov	Chris Ricks		Sue Cox
					Andrew Seiler

### **SUMMARY OF ITEMS COVERED THIS MEETING:**

Caryn opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with introductions. Dawne Gardner volunteered to take minutes.

#### **State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator's Report**

Caryn reported the change in the rumble strip policy that should be finalized soon. The new policy states that rumble strips will be milled 4 inches from the edge line and will be 16 inches long with a 7-inch gap between each strip. Each strip will be 5-inches wide. Rumble strips will not be constructed on ramps.

The grate policy is currently at the Engineering Policy Committee stage. They are currently discussing the inlet portion and what type of inlet to use.

Safety/educational materials will now be distributed by the Office of Highway Safety, which is now a functional unit of MoDOT. We need to address this issue and determine what we want to accomplish. Who's our target audience? We need to identify two (2) areas to concentrate on. Due to the Office of Highway Safety taking this over, the Safety Packet Subcommittee will be tabled at this time. Caryn will look over the materials and take the input from the group to help the Office of Highway Safety determine what to concentrate on at this time.

Caryn, Planners and Engineers from each MoDOT district attended the NHI Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Design class held in Jefferson City October 21-23. A total of 21 attended the class. Caryn felt that people who may not have felt the need to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians prior to this class began looking at this issue in a different light. Other discussion included the need to offer this class to others, particularly MoDOT Traffic Engineers. Caryn is also exploring the possibility of offering this class during the "Connecting Communities Through Better Design" conference which will be held in Kansas City March 18-20. Caryn and Aaron Bartlett are on the planning committee for the conference. Bob Foster also brought up the possibility of offering a class on Bicycle Handling during this conference. He will email Caryn the details.

Per the request from individuals at the last meeting, Caryn found a website which details current enhancement projects throughout the state. The website is [www.enhancements.org/](http://www.enhancements.org/).

Caryn is working on MoDOT's Pedestrian Policy. She has asked other state DOT's for info regarding their policies. Two problems exist – liability and maintenance. MoDOT does not want additional liability, however, a tort cap option is being explored. Maintenance is also an issue. MoDOT does not have the staff or resources to maintain sidewalks, particularly damage done during snow removal. Two pedestrian manuals will be coming out soon that will drive pedestrian policy. AASHTO is nearly ready to publish a book on Pedestrian Guidelines. The Access Board will publish ADA rules for Pedestrian Facilities. It is likely that these books will help MoDOT move forward with developing and implementing a Pedestrian Policy.

Caryn met with the MoDOT webmaster regarding needed changes and additions to the Bike/Ped site at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org). These changes will hopefully be made in the next month.

### Subcommittee Reports

The subcommittee's present broke into respective groups and presented the following information:

#### Policy

Included in the rules for State Buildings is one that generally forbids bicycles inside public buildings. This rule may be a barrier for those who use bicycles as transportation by offering too great a risk of this means of transportation being stolen.

The Share the Road subcommittee reviewed the draft to modify the sign policy to put up signs at the discretion of the District Engineer's. The committee concurred with comments already presented: There is not a clear description of guidelines for what roads will be used and the level of bicyclists they would address. Caryn will send the committee the Model Share the Road Policy from Florida to possibly base our policy on.

#### Pedestrian Routes

Caryn has a copy of Vermont's Bicycle and Pedestrian Design Manual.

There is interest in forming a Volksmarch Group in Jefferson City.

Aaron reported on Safe Routes to School. Seventeen elementary schools participated in Walk to School Day from the Kansas City area. He has been asked to locate speakers for the "Connecting Communities..." conference in the spring.

#### Bicycle Trails

Bob Kirkman presented a map which is available on the Missouri Bike Federation website highlighting proposed bike routes along state roads. Cross state routes are in orange and connector routes are in blue. Feedback from cyclists resulted in a few changes, particularly around the Farmington area, West Plains to Hannibal and along the Springfield route that extends to the Iowa State line. The revised map should be available soon.

MRT – Steve Sleet reported on the beginnings of signing the MRT as a state recommended route. It began with the Rails to Trails Conference being held in St. Louis. Governor Holden took advantage of the opportunity to perform the ribbon cutting and make mention of what an important aspect this trail is to the state of Missouri and its designation as a state bike trail. Dave Hurt reported the discussions he and his district have been having with the Illinois DOT to extend this trail to Keokuk. They have a route determined at this point and are determining what step to take next to sign this portion.

The Passenger Movement consultant has also been asked to develop BLOS (Bicycle Level of Service) for the state.

Caryn has collected a list of multi-use paths throughout the state. Please notify her whenever you have a multi-use path constructed and it is open for use.

## Legislation

Last year legislation was offered regarding lowering the speed limit to 20 mph in school zones. AAA is not in support since the different speed limit needs of rural vs. urban are not addressed and no clear definition of “school zone” is given. It was mentioned that new legislation should be offered this year to clearly state that bicycles are allowed on shoulders. Arizona legislation prohibits motorists from driving within three feet of a bicycle.

## District Reports

D3 – Currently working with the City of Hannibal to construct a trail.

D6 – (Update provided by Bob Foster) The Veterans Memorial Bridge over the Missouri River is scheduled for dedication on December 13. This will open a ten-lane highway with an adjacent trail in St. Louis County which connects Creve Coeur with the Katy Trail.

D7 – The Frisco Trail Bridge across Turkey Creek is in the final inspection stage. This bridge was reconstructed after vandals burned it a few years ago.

D8 – The Shadowrock Trail in Forsyth, MO is getting ready for construction. Bids were opened last month. District Planning is also going to begin working with the Traffic Dept and the City of Springfield to come up with a plan for what state routes within the city would need to be designated as bike routes to provide linkage between some of the current city bike routes.

D10 – The grand opening of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge is being held on Saturday December 13. There will be a 14 mile bike ride and 5K run at the grand opening. The Dunklin County Welcome Center on the Crowley Ridge Scenic Byway has been advertised for bids. This will provide a new parking lot and restroom facilities along with the welcome center. The Village of Old Appleton has a bridge rehab project that will be designated as a Pedestrian Bridge only. The City of Marquand is developing an asphalt trail and renovating a depot for museum purposes. There is a new Rte 74 Pedestrian Bridge underway. SEMO is constructing a hiking and biking trail that follows along the river. Wayne County is also developing a trail that will parallel the Black River that includes a pedestrian bridge.

## MPO Reports

MARC – NHTSA training course “Community Bicycle Safety for Law Enforcement Officers” was held. This training covered bicycle safety and was geared toward law enforcement only. They are looking at holding another class in the spring for approximately 30 officers. This is a two-day course.

A regional bike map for the general public will be available soon. This map will show on and off road facilities. They are also working on getting a trail system developed on top of the levy in Riverside. Concerns are currently being addressed regarding damage to the system and security if a trail is allowed. If this can be accomplished, the Metro Green system will be opened up for future development of a trail system. This is at the heart of the river system.

MARC is sending a survey to all municipalities in their region (144 cities and 7 counties) regarding Pedestrian facilities. This survey is designed to keep track of walkable communities and how cities have progressed in providing these accommodations since they were last surveyed.

The American Public Works Association, headquartered in KC has Bicycle Facility Guideline cross sections available as a PDF on their website – [www.kcapwa.net](http://www.kcapwa.net). These were developed for urban and suburban needs.

EWGCC – EWGCC and Great Rivers Greenway selected a contractor to provide suitability maps and model ordinances which will eventually result in a map.

CATSO – City Council appointed a committee to come up with street standards that will be more accommodating for bicycles and pedestrians. There is concern with adding more impervious surface and how it will affect storm stormwater runoff and also additional costs, such as additional right of way to provide bike lanes. There is a public hearing on 11/6. There focus is to design first with bicycle and pedestrians in mind.

SATSO – New name – Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO). Reviewing current long range transportation plan. Within this plan lies an aggressive Bicycle and Pedestrian plan. Have been seeking public input the past few weeks. The new multi-modal parking facility (Jordan Valley Parking Garage) was dedicated on September 20. This facility provides bike racks and bike lockers. Share the Road signs have been installed on West Bypass, south of Sunshine to Republic Road. This also connects to the only city street that has a striped bike lane and connects to the South Creek Greenway Trail system. The city is looking at building regulations to connect any new subdivisions to existing trails. Safe Routes to School is being picked up by the MPO. The City Council has developed an increased awareness for Bicycle and Pedestrian issues.

JATSO – There has been more of a focus on rail to trail conversions in the cities of Carl Junction and Webb City. Equestrian use is allowed on the trails and they have not had any problems or significant damage to the trail.

### State Agency Reports

Dept of Health – Received a cooperative agreement with the Center for Disease Control to initiate programs to reduce obesity. Their directive is to work up a plan to be followed to address obesity. Walking and biking are key pillars to reducing obesity. Safe, accessible and affordable routes and facilities will be a major focus.

Dept of Natural Resources – A brochure on Bicycle Safety is now available for distribution by State Park Rangers. DNR is also going to proceed with accepting applications for the next round of Recreational Trails Funds. The dedication of the Al Foster Trail, a rails to trails conversion, in St. Louis County took place. This was a coordinated effort between State Parks and St. Louis County.

Highway Safety – They are going to combine flyers on pedestrian safety and school bus safety to make one flyer. There will be two safety fairs in December for state employees. They will be giving out bike helmets. Would like input from committee on the best helmets to offer. This office will now handle all distribution of bicycle and pedestrian educational materials.

Highway Patrol – There is a delay in changing the pamphlet on bike safety. The delay is due to it going online in January. The download will be a PDF and the changed version will be available online in January.

### Other Reports

AAA – The group viewed a new video offered for checkout by AAA called “Children in Traffic.” This video talks about how children perceive traffic differently both physically and intellectually. This video and others are available from the AAA loan library. The list can be found a [www.aaa.com](http://www.aaa.com).

Ozark Greenways – Working with City Utilities to place bike lockers at various locations. The Frisco Highline Trail between Springfield and Willard is now complete. Two individuals from the area, Coy Hart and David Hutchison took Road 1 Training and are now certified trainers. They are looking at how to utilize them within the community. There is a handout available from Florida regarding bicycle/car accidents. This was distributed to police forces in smaller communities surrounding Springfield. There is a misperception that the bicyclist is

usually at fault and this handout addresses that misperception. OG is working with the tourism class at SMSU to put out a county bike route map in conjunction with the city bike route map.

Blue Ridge Runners – Rte. 66 map is now available for motorists. There is a section between Springfield and St. Louis that looks like it would be suitable for cycling. There is interest from people in the Rolla area to promote Rte. 66 as a bike route.

Trailnet – The Riverfront Trail currently has a 1 ½ mile section which is not complete and it is now under construction. There is currently nine miles of trail. Eads Bridge opened in July. It is signed with “Share the Road” and has a separate (although narrow) bicycle facility. They are working with individuals from Southern Illinois University regarding developing a system to take into account and track bicycle accidents. Commercials were aired with Miss Missouri promoting the “Share the Road” message. Madison County Transit in Illinois now have bike racks on their buses.

Missouri Bicycle Federation – Visit [www.mobikefed.org](http://www.mobikefed.org) frequently. There are daily updates in the world of cycling. Send any positive/negative bicycling encounters to Brent Hugh. Missouri was voted the Peoples Choice Award for Mountain Bikers. Bike carriers have been installed on all Bi-State buses in St. Louis. The use has gone from 200 bikes/month in February to 1500 bikes/month in September.

What direction does the committee want to take on working with the Office of Highway Safety to disseminate educational/safety materials? What should be our focus? Who is the target audience? Send ideas to Caryn!!!!

Ideas proposed at the meeting: 1. Audio spots on radio – positive announcements only! Crafted by MoDOT, distributed to local groups for funding and advertisement. 2. Check with NHTSA for PSA library. 3. Bicycle Message: Obey Traffic Laws.

Need to pick two things to focus on at one time. Limited resources!!

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Caryn: Send Model Share the Road Policy from Florida to Share the Road Subcommittee.
2. Entire Committee: Help Caryn pick two areas to focus on for information distribution by Office of Highway Safety.

**PREPARED BY:** Dawne Gardner

**DISTRIBUTION:** BPAC, Friends of BPAC, District BP Contacts